

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 to 18 (canceled)

19. (Currently amended) A method of making a permeable microvoided sheet, which method comprises:

(a) blending void initiating particles into a melt comprising a polylactic-acid-based material, wherein the void initiating particles are in the range of 0.1 to 1.0 micrometers in average diameter and are employed in an amount of 30-50% by volume in feedstock for the permeable microvoided sheet prior to extrusion and microvoiding,

(b) extruding said polylactic-acid-based materials as a monolayer film to form a sheet comprising a layer of a polylactic-acid-based material containing inorganic particles; and

(c) stretching the sheet biaxially, in which both draw ratios in the longitudinal and transverse directions are greater than 3 times and not more than 5 times and the area ratio between the non-stretched sheet and the biaxially stretched film is greater than 10 times and not more than 20 times, to form interconnected microvoids around the inorganic particles, thereby obtaining a permeable microvoided sheet that is a monolayer film of polylactic-acid-based material having a total absorbent capacity of at least about 14 cc/m².

20. (canceled)

21. (original) The method of claim 19 wherein the permeable microvoided layer is stretched at a temperature of under 75°C.

22. (canceled)

23. (currently amended) The method of claim 19 22 wherein the void initiating particles are in the range of 0.1 to 0.6 micrometers in average diameter.

24. (original) The method of claim 19 wherein the permeable microvoided layer has a dry thickness of from about 25 to about 400 μm .

25. (previously presented) The method of claim 19 wherein the void initiating particles are inorganic particles that make up from about 45 to about 75 weight % of the total weight of the permeable microvoided layer.

26. (previously presented) The method of claim 25 wherein the inorganic particles are selected from the group consisting of barium sulfate, calcium carbonate, zinc sulfide, zinc oxide, titanium dioxide, silica, alumina, and combinations thereof.

27-28. (canceled)

29. (original) The method of claim 19 wherein the sheet is stretched in both directions simultaneously.

30. (original) The method of claim 19 wherein the sheet is sequentially stretched in a machine direction first followed by a transverse direction.

31. (withdrawn) A single or multilayer sheet comprising a microvoided layer permeable to low surface tension liquids, which microvoided layer comprises a continuous phase comprising a polylactic-acid-based material and interconnecting microvoids, the microvoided layer having a total absorbent capacity of at least about 14 cc/m², wherein the microvoided layer comprises void initiating particles in an amount of 30-50% by volume in feedstock for the permeable microvoided sheet prior to extrusion and microvoiding and wherein the microvoided layer is the product of stretching in the longitudinal and transverse directions at a draw ratio in the range of 2 to 5 times such that the area ratio between the non-stretched and the biaxially stretched film is in the range of 9 to 20 times.

32. (withdrawn) The sheet of claim 31 wherein the void initiating particles have a particle size of from about 5 nm to about 15 μm .

33. (withdrawn) The sheet of claim 31 wherein the void initiating particles are in the range of 0.1 to 1.0 micrometers in average diameter.

34. (withdrawn) The sheet of claim 31 wherein said microvoided layer has a dry thickness of from about 25 to about 400 μm .

35. (withdrawn) The sheet of claim 31 wherein the void initiating particles are inorganic particles present in an amount between 50 to 65 weight %.

36. (withdrawn) The sheet of claim 35 wherein the inorganic particles are selected from the group consisting of barium sulfate, calcium carbonate, zinc sulfide, zinc oxide, titanium dioxide, silica, alumina, and combinations thereof.

37. (withdrawn) The sheet of claim 31 wherein the microvoided layer is in a multilayer film and is adjacent to a second layer.

38. (withdrawn) The sheet of claim 37 wherein the second layer comprises a voided or non-voided polylactic-acid-based material and is adjacent to and integral with said microvoided layer.

39. (withdrawn) The sheet of claim 31 wherein the continuous phase comprises additional polymers or blends of other polyesters.

40. (previously presented) The method of claim 19 wherein stretching the sheet biaxially, in which both draw ratios in the longitudinal and transverse directions are at least about 3.3 times and not more than 5 times and the area ratio between the non-stretched sheet and the biaxially stretched film is at least about 11 times and not more than 20 times.